

**From:** Vbuchwald@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/5/03 2:45PM  
**Subject:** ownership of media outlets

We urge the Commission to approve regulations that will restrict the number of radio and television stations that can be owned by any single company or conglomerate. It is essential to a democratic society that there be ample opportunity for many voices and views to be heard throughout our nation and the world.

Alexander M. Buchwald & Virginia E. Buchwald  
3145 Coppertree Drive, Bloomington, Indiana 47401

**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

**From:** Rachel Plotkin  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/5/03 3:27PM  
**Subject:** The time has come to reverse the trend of massive Media Consolidation

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am one of millions of Americans who are keenly aware of the monopolization of our public airwaves into the hands of 6--6 behemoth corporations. The demise of the Fairness Doctrine and the removal of obstacles to consolidation as a result of the 96 Telecommunications Act has resulted in the destruction of a viable media. The integrity of journalists has fallen to such low levels with hate spewing, spinning, and yes lying talk and tv radio hosts and pundits such as Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter and Michael Savage. They exercise their First Amendment rights, but the American people need and deserve to hear those who would come from a different political perspective.

The FCC --with the abolition of the Fairness Doctrine no longer considers those who control and disseminate public information as "trustees" of the public. No fiduciary duties to disclose bias, or conflict of interest, or to carry balanced points of view. Now they are nothing more than free market profiteers. This has severely diminished and damaged the integrity and quality--not to mention accuracy of radio and television programming. This goes to the heart of our democracy.

There are far more millions of course, who know nothing of this .....and are simply now on the receiving end of an unapologetically one sided barrage of information, spin, including blatant lies and inaccuracies--all couched in the fiction that it is "balanced news coverage." Just the laughable notion that Fox Network presents balanced coverage with "no spin" is point in fact. Anyone--even those not politically minded can identify the clear bias of this network and the hard right wing perspective and propaganda it hammers out on a daily basis.

I will be urging my elected officials to do all they can to return our public discourse to one that is consistent and true to our democratic principles --true to a democratic republic--and to leave behind to history--this tragic ode to fascist, one sided unbalanced news coverage. All the world --who watches our television stations are shocked to find such little balance and the outright hypocrisy of such a media conglomerates fighting tooth and nail against reforms and rules that would eliminate their stranglehold on the American discourse. Such one sided debates dumbs down our public and does not even give them enough balanced information to make up their own minds. Just as in any dictatorship--people cannot learn to know what is not presented to them.

I do not believe that this nation can survive the current and ongoing disintegration of public information and debate. It is the core of our democracy. It is the core of our First Amendment.

I hope that our elected officials will take the time to present these issues to the American public. I urge you to examine the sacred obligation the FCC has in our nation to protect our democracy.

For 6 corporations to own our airwaves is beyond imagining, and yet it is the sad truth. Stop the madness. The time has come.

Sincerely,  
A concerned citizen

**From:** Mark Dixon  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/5/03 11:56PM  
**Subject:** re upcoming regulatory hearings

Mr. Powell,

While you apparently think that the efforts of Mr. Edelstein and Copps to edify the American public are misbegotten (about the risks of loosening already very loose FCC regulations regarding station ownership) - I believe your words were something to the effect of 'resorting to antiquated whistle-stop tactics' - I for one applaud their efforts.

The mainstream press has all but ignored this potential sea-change in regulations, proof positive that the corporations that already own media outlets aren't keen on the dissemination of this kind of news.

Your efforts, on the other hand, (among them, cloaking this nefarious regulatory change in byzantine logic) will undoubtedly grant you a special place in the history books, in the chapter entitled 'The Decline of Democracy in America'.

Sincerely,

Mark Dixon  
Portland, OR

**From:** Rezzonator@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/6/03 12:51AM  
**Subject:** Re: FCC rulings.

Dear Mr. Powell,

Please let this letter serve as my formal complaint and objection to any pending FCC rulings which may lift restriction's on mergers between TV broadcast networks and the number of local TV or radio stations owned by one company. Such deregulation threatens to further stifle the diversity of programming for consumers, advertisers and producers. One of the main charges of the FCC is to promote diversity, which doesn't just refer to people of color, it refers to many different types of programming. We applaud you Commissioner Copps for attempting to draw attention to this problem. I would like to go on record as being opposed to increased or further media deregulation and wish for you to act on my behalf and STOP further media deregulation.

Respectfully yours,

Michael J. McEvoy  
Composer  
2802 Westmoreland Drive  
Nshville, TN. 37212

<http://www.michaeljmcevoy.com>

**From:** Kaitlin Davis  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/6/03 11:36AM  
**Subject:** Broadcasting company restrictions

Dear Mr. Powell,

I was recently watching a PBS news broadcast, on a show called "Now", about the FCC and its consideration of removing or changing some regulations which now limit large broadcasting companies' ability to expand. It disturbs me greatly that this may be allowed to happen. I think that if these broadcasting companies are allowed to become monopolies it would threaten the liberty of my people, the American people. I greatly value the freedom of the press and I think that no one should be able to threaten that freedom, even the press itself.

I greatly appreciate your time and would greatly appreciate a response.

Thank you,  
Kaitlin Davis  
Madison, WI resident

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**From:** rachaeldavis@sbcglobal.net  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/6/03 7:46PM  
**Subject:** BIG MEDIA

Dear Mr. Powell and FCC Commissioners:

In the interest of the public good, I urge all of you to NOT support policies that would allow the major media corporations to continue buying up independent/smaller companies.

As a citizen, I do not want to see a handful of huge media corporations dictating what I see and watch on the airwaves. I beleive that this would help to undermine what is left of the democratic process in our country.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was a deregulation mistake, and it has had far reaching negative effects on the public good.

Please, do the right thing and don't allow a few media conglomerates to take control and dominate the telecommunications business complex.

Respectfully,  
Rachael Davis  
New Britain, CT

**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein,  
NOWWeb@thirteen.org

**From:** Spikereskin@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/6/03 11:26PM  
**Subject:** Clear Channel

Dear Representative:

I am outraged that Clear Channel has the free reign to instigate attacks on protesters without any legal ramifications. America feels more and more like the lawless Wild West.

M. Estelle Spike  
Weston, FL

**From:** BA5477@aol.com  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** 4/8/03 3:37PM  
**Subject:** (no subject)

Dear Mr. Copps,

My name is Beth Wasko. I am a 36 year old female who has spent 6 years in the Radio industry for a classic rock radio station in the Youngstown, Ohio market. The first 4 years I was a weekend jock and the last 2 years I was a morning show CO-host. I had a very nice following of listeners who appreciated my input to the show, my views and my voice. I was never written up for disobeying any rules, nor have I received, at any point of my employment, a bad air check. I was released one year ago, without notice, and was not given a reason. Much to my surprise, that action was very acceptable, by law. My program director, Scott Kennedy, basically got tired of me and that was all he needed as a reason to take away my employment. There was absolutely nothing I could do, but try and get another position with the competitor. When I say, The competitor...I mean "The" competitor. As I explained earlier I am in the Youngstown, Ohio market. At one point there were several companies in our area to provide radio personalities job opportunities. Now there are two. Cumulus, where I came from and Clear Channel that has no available positions. In a situation like this, what is someone, like me, to do? I know of other people in this same situation, from this area, and I can't imagine how many others across the states. I am very curious to hear what benefits came from the Telecommunications Act of 1996? The monopoly has decreased jobs, lessened the choice for the consumer to advertise, as well as lessened the choice for the listener. I do see the benefit of a company with a lot of money coming in, buying up the area and having, basically, no competition.

In my situation...I was given an opportunity as a CO-host of a morning show in an area of which I was born and raised and needless to say, know very well. I did an excellent job and was a real asset, however my program director grew tired of me and ended my career, because the only other option in this area had no availability, can someone please explain to me, in this day and time how that situation is American? The other concern with this monopoly theory is how does someone who set out to make a career in this industry better themselves? My one morning show partner is a 40 year old man with 5 kids. He has a very good name in this market with many listeners. He is held captive with a company that loves the sayings: "pay freezes" and "nothing left in the budget." How does this person get ahead...again...how is this American? It is a very discouraging thought to see that the radio industry has come to this. Can someone please help people like us. I am sure if you took a poll of people involved in this industry you would find that the Telecom Act of 96 did nothing but kick people out of this industry, which is a real crime. Again, can someone please explain the benefit. Why is it that the people in the top management positions and the owners are millionaires, and the people out there doing the job and making the radio stations worth listening to can't get the amount of money they are worth or worse yet, a job?

Thank you for your time,  
Bethanne Wasko

**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein